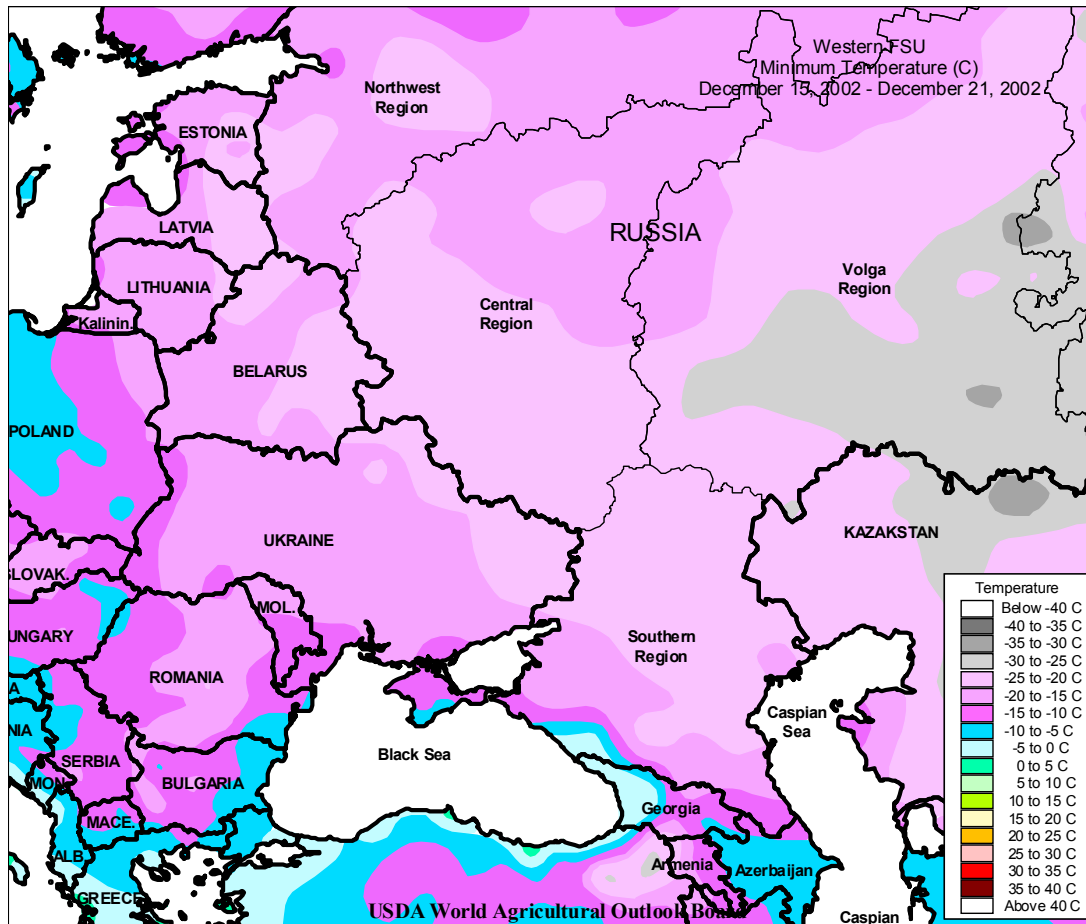


FORMER SOVIET UNION (WESTERN)

Lowest Temperatures for December 15-21, 2002



WEATHER AND CROP HIGHLIGHTS

January 10, 2003

- o In December, bitter cold persisted over most of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and the Baltics, threatening winter grains.
- o In major winter wheat producing areas of Ukraine and the Southern Region in Russia, lowest temperatures were observed from December 15-21, 2002 (shown on map above). Snow cover in these areas was thin or patchy, leaving crops vulnerable to potential freeze damage.
- o In early January, temperatures moderated in Ukraine and the Southern Region in Russia, improving overwintering conditions for winter grains. Bitter cold persisted in northern Russia, but was accompanied by moderate to heavy snow.